

Worship services in the area will celebrate Christmas

Is it a coincidence that this troublesome year is the Christmas season that the star of Bethlehem (the configuration with Jupiter and Saturn close together that won't happen again it's estimated until 2080) is going to appear. On December 21 - the Monday before Christmas is when this is going to happen. It's a phenomenon in the night sky with the peak right before sunset of these two giant planets.

It's being called the 'Great conjunction' and will form a winter star as their lights coalesce and appear like a single point of reflected light with the naked eye.

One's faith is comforting and much needed this season as the country battles an invisible foe. Along with it comes loneliness, fear and a host of other problems for humanity. We need strength.

This year especially should be reflective internally on one's status with their beliefs. Christmas feelings of love and appreciation for the Savior Jesus Christ's birthday will prevail as it always has.

No matter who is sitting next to you at your holiday table. All will be in your heart.



Worship services in our area include:

In Clark, at the Plymouth Congregational (UCC) Church, a Christmas Eve Candlelight worship will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Decem-

ber 24 with Pastor Fawn Lamb.

At the Assembly of God in Clark, Pastor Mark Cronauer will be leading a 7:00 p.m. candlelight Christmas Eve service.

In Raymond, commissioned ruling elders will lead the Christmas Eve Candlelight service with communion at the First Presbyterian Church at 5:00 p.m. on December 24.

Also in Raymond, Pastor Randy Bader will lead the 9:00 a.m. service of scripture and song on December 25 at the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Members of Peace Lutheran in Clark will join them for their Christmas Day service.

At St. Paul Lutheran, the Christmas Eve Candlelight worship services with communion will be held at 3:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. being led by worship leader Jody Peterson.

At the United Methodist Church in Clark, Pastors Mark and Joy Tracy invite all to the Christmas

Christmas services
(continued on page 4)

Veda from the Netherlands is the foreign exchange student staying with the Gaddis family

Some more snow and maybe riding on a snowmobile are two things that Clark's foreign exchange student Veda Geilvoet is looking forward to during her stay with the Collin and Jill Gaddis family for the 2020-2021 school year.

"It's nice having two girls in the house again," stated Jill Gaddis of her foreign exchange daughter from the Netherlands.

Jenna Gaddis, is a senior at CHS and Veda is in the junior class this year.

Jocce, Jill's older daughter works at Duenwald Transportation and was visiting with Kerry Kline about the exchange program. "My mom would like to do that," she told Kerry.

Veda (pronounced Fay-duh) has a good grasp of the English language as she's had four years of English in high school. She graduated from high school this past year at the age of 17 as they start kindergarten at the age of four. She chose to be in the junior class at CHS.

Veda's parents are Grisja - her father, who works for Fed Ex and Esmiralda, her mother who does journalist work for their government. Veda has one younger sister,



Veda Geilvoet from the Netherlands is spending this school year with Collin and Jill Gaddis and their daughter Jenna. Above, left, Jenna is a senior at Clark High School this year. Veda, 17, is in the junior class at CHS and both are by the hallway Christmas tree at the school.

Veda's family recently sent a care package of chocolates to the Gaddis family in honor of their Sintir Klaas tradition in early December.

14-year-old Nika. She also misses her pet cat Mickey at home.

Veda's future plans may be going into the field of psychology being a creative therapist, helping with

traumatic experiences through creative coping skills.

When she finishes her school

Geilvoet
(continued on page 4)

COVID policy amendments continue; Cyclones implement new athletic voucher system

As schools deal with the COVID-19 pandemic, each school board meeting will have coronavirus discussion and policy amendments, additions and clarifications.

At the December meeting of the Clark School Board, a COVID-19 attendance policy was amended, to follow CDC requirements related to the pandemic.

The amendments have to do with option 1 and option 2. The COVID ATTENDANCE POLICY reads:

Close contact or possible contact following investigation by the school and/or DOH tracing results in two quarantine options:

Option 1: Students may return to school after 7 days WITH a negative COVID test and must be symptom free without the aid of medicine.

Option 2: Students may return to school after 10 days if they are symptom free without a test and the aid of medicine.

In order for someone to return to school after a positive testing, following a minimal of 10 day absence from school, student/staff member must be symptom free for 24 hours, have a doctor clearance, OR negative results of COVID-19 testing.

Students or employees must remain away from school or school activities until COVID test results are made available. In the event that the health care professional has deemed it necessary to be tested, you must stay home until test results are in.

Students or staff who exhibit COVID symptoms may take the Ab-

bott BinexNOW Rapid antigen test at the high school. Questionable negative results or positive results will be referred to medical personnel for further treatment.

The school district will provide weekly COVID updates pertaining to school on webpage and will keep board members and stakeholders informed as to staff and student issues.

Voucher System

Clark principal Travis Ahrens asked the school board for a voucher system approval. It was granted by the board. At the Willow Lake School Board meeting, Monday, the board also approved this voucher system, so all Cyclone home events will now be under this new voucher system.

Prior to the board meetings, the Cyclones were Tier 3, which only allowed participants and parents to home events. This voucher system is more popular throughout the state, said Ahrens and he said it allows for more consistency, flexibility and compromise for home athletic events.

The voucher system entails:

- Four vouchers will be issued to each SDHSAA rostered participant that will be participating in an event taking place that day. (Includes: coaches, managers, statisticians, cheerleaders and cheer coach).

- Visiting team vouchers will be issued by the hosting Activities Director.

- Person seeking entrance to event must provide official voucher

with valid number to ticket staff in order to be able to purchase a ticket or use an approved pass to gain entrance into the event.

- Number of tickets for both Home and Away teams will be predetermined and vouchers presented will be check-marked by ticket staff to help monitor attendance.

- Visiting school's bus driver and school administrators will be allowed entrance without a voucher.

- Visiting school's Livestream crew will be allowed entrance.
- Radio, yearbook, or other media must have permission of site administrator.

As the paper goes to press this new system will be implemented starting immediately.

2021-2022 calendar

Preliminary discussion was held on the 2021-22 school calendar. The calendar option superintendent Warren liked best, of the two

School board
(continued on page 10)

WEATHER

Robert Cole - Official Weather Observer

	HI	LO	PR
Dec. 8	44	24	0
Dec. 9	52	32	0
Dec. 10	52	26	0
Dec. 11	39	25	0
Dec. 12	32	20	0
Dec. 13	23	16	0
Dec. 14	27	4	.02
2020 precipitation to date	18.23		
2019 precipitation to date	37.14		



Town gets lit up for Clark Christmas Parade of Lights

Two years in a row. This is the second year of Clark's Parade of Lights and both years the weather cooperated, people came out to watch and the parade had quality, quantity and lots and lots of lights.

Sponsored by the Clark Chamber of Commerce, over 40 floats cruised the parade route.

Winners of the Christmas in Clark events: Gingerbread House decorating contest - Ages 9+: 1st place - Kamryn Nesheim; 2nd place - Edy Reyes; 3rd place - Delilah Yexley; 4th place - Payton Bokinskie; honorable mention - Kooper Rahm. Ages 6-8: 1st place - Emree Werdel; 2nd place - Santiago Cuhlane; 3rd place - Alex Nesheim; 4th place - Alexis Mora; honorable mention - McKoy Forest. Ages 5 & under: 1st place - Isabella Reyes; 2nd place - Aysling Forest; 3rd place - Olivia Reyes; 4th place - Ana Bokinskie; honorable mention - Huber brothers.

Chamber Shop Local Promotion: \$400 - Julie McElhone; \$250 - Sandy Hovde; \$100 - Lisa Paulson.

Parade winners: Most Creative - Hallberg family; Most Lit - Werdel Construction; Most Beautiful - Westside Implement; Best Float Overall - Dakota Butcher.

Above left, Robin Brown got to celebrate her birthday with a parade, as did Eve Gaikowski, upper middle. Lower middle is Karrie Moeller, from the Christmas Story 'gonna shoot your eye out'. On the right as the sign says, 'Westside Stole Christmas'.

Look next week, in the Christmas Greetings edition, for more Christmas in Clark pictures, including a camel.